

Town of Edmonston
Mayor and Town Council Legislative Session
Tuesday, October 14, 2014

Minutes

- 1) The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gant at 7:10 pm.
In attendance: Mayor Gant, Council Members: Pooley, Johnson, Bennett-White, Layne-Bee, Town Attorney Sue Ford, Town Administrator Barnes, Chief Walker and Town Clerk Rodriguez.
 - a) Mayor Gant led the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.
 - b) Council Member Pooley moved, seconded by Council Member White to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion approved.
- 2) Mayor Gant opened the meeting for public comments:
 - a) Stephanie Barnes – 4920 49th Avenue
Co- Chair of the Edmonston Green Team requested that the council consider an amendment to the existing Town beekeeping policy regarding the location of bee hives in yards. The current requirement is 500 feet. Ms Barnes was requesting a change to 15 feet.
 - b) Patrick Carl- 5117 Decatur St
 - a. Mr. Carl mentioned that there are 2 vacant properties on his block (5118 and 5122 Decatur). He has noticed that one of them has been vandalized several times.
 - b. He thanked the Council for placing additional trash cans along Decatur Street.
 - c. His final concern was that he noticed when it rains, the water from the parking lot at the Sunoco Gas Station at the corner of Kenilworth and Decatur runs down the Decatur storm drains. The water is polluted with oil and gas. He suggested that the gas station should have installed a catch drain system that would collect the residual oil and gas before getting in the storm drain system and to the river.
 - c) Ms. Matilda McNeil- Talented Young People Moving On
Ms. McNeil requested the council approve allowing her to the Edmonston Rec. Center for her girls mentoring program. The program will run Mondays and Wednesdays from 4-7pm., free of charge for girls ages 12-17. In addition, she requested assistance in providing food and/or snacks for the girls.
- 3) Consent Agenda:
 - a) The consent agenda was presented for consideration:
 - a. The consideration of the Town Council minutes for the regular meeting held on September 9, 2014.
 - (1) A motion was made by Council Member Bennett-White, seconded by Council Member Pooley to approve the consent agenda as presented. Vote: 3-0, Mayor Gant in favor. Motion approved.
- 4) Legislative Actions:

- a) Mr. Tim Ailsworth, Director of the Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT) presented the Town with a grant in the amount of \$5,000 for the training of a police officer candidate to attend the Police Academy for the period of March 2015 thru August 2015.
 - a. A motion was made by Council Member Bennett-White, seconded by CM Pooley to accept the grant. Vote: 3-0, Mayor Gant in favor. Motion approved.
- b) The consideration of approval of Resolution 2014-03 supporting the modification of the Clean Water Act.
 - a. A motion was made by Council Member Pooley, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve Resolution #2014-03 as presented. Vote: 3-0, Mayor Gant in favor. Motion approved.
- c) Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Town Attorney Sue Ford was included in the executive session.
 - a. A motion was made by Council Member Bennett-White, seconded by Council Member Pooley to adjourn into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Vote: 3-0, Mayor Gant in favor. Motion approved.

** Meeting closed @ 7:45pm- council meeting returned to regular meeting @8:30pm**

- d) The approval of the Town Administrator's employment contract was presented for consideration.
 - a. A motion was made by Council Member Bennett-White, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve the contract as presented. Vote: 4-0, Mayor Gant in favor. Motion approved.

5) New Business:

- a) The consideration of resolution 2014-04 Designating Mayor Gant, Chief Walker, and Administrator Barnes as authorized signatures for the Town on checks.
 - a. A motion was made by Council Member Pooley, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve Resolution 2014-04. Vote: 4-0, Mayor Gant in favor. Motion approved.

Town Attorney excused from meeting

6) Unfinished Business:

- a) Edmonston day discussion/ wrap up
 - a. Town Administrator Barnes reported that he had received comments from residents/ attendees that the Town should consider changing the date. He also had suggestions to have the parade cover more area of the Town.
 - b. Ward 2: Council Member Pooley and Council Member Johnson reported that they received mostly good comments from attendees. The only complaint was the weather.
 - (1) Ward 1: Council Member Layne-Bee was impressed with the number of police departments participating. She also indicated that even though the weather was a problem, she did see several people out.
 - (2) Council Member Bennett-White indicated that she would like to have more promotion on the event. Council Member Bennett-White also asked for information on how many vendors didn't show up for the event due to the weather.

- c. Mayor Gant expressed appreciation for everyone's hard work. She indicated she would like to have a better audio system next year. She reported that she is sending thank you letters to all who participated in the parade.

7) Reports:

a) Council Reports:

a. Ward 1:

- (a) Council Member Layne-Bee reported to the Council that she is in process of identifying alternate locations to plant trees for the Cleanup, Greenup Event. She noticed that there are a number of large pots located on the west side of Ingraham at the intersection of 46th Avenue. She suggested talking to the owners about planting flowers in them.
- (b) Council Member Layne-Bee would like to plant trees on the east side of Ingraham Street.
- (c) Council Member Layne-Bee mentioned that the area in front of Metro Paving (along Hamilton) is looking much better.
- (d) Council Member Bennett-White reported that she was able to attend the Prince George's Elected Women Association meeting held in Colmar Manor on 10/12/14. The association provides for great opportunity for networking, the association is working on increasing their membership. She inquired about payment of dues for the association. The Town Clerk indicated she would check on the status of payment.

b. Ward 2:

- (a) Council Member Johnson reported that he had attended the State Highway Administration open house, during which he was able to inquire about tree trimming on Kenilworth Avenue.
- (b) Council Member Johnson indicated he would not be able to promote the Cleanup, Greenup event at the Fountain apartments.
- (c) Council Member Pooley gave a Green team meeting update.
 - (i) The team is working on coordinating a tour of the County's composting facilities in Upper Marlboro.
 - (ii) Council Member Pooley will be attending the Sustainable Maryland Meeting on 10/29.
- (d) Council Member Pooley indicated that Eco City Farms is promoting their winter program of share baskets.

c. Police Report:

- (1) Chief Walker provided the Mayor and Council with the monthly Police Report for September.

d. Town Administrator:

- (1) Rod informed the Council that the next council meeting will be on 11/18/14. The date was modified due to the holidays.
 - (a) Mr. Barnes informed the Council that beginning with the November meeting, the Police Officers will be delivering agenda packets to the Mayor and Council Members no later than the Friday before the upcoming council meeting.

e. Mayor Report:

- (1) The Mayor reported she had a very productive meeting with County Executive Rushern Baker, and Ms. Bea Tignor (Municipal Liaison). During the meeting they expressed how much they loved Edmonston and that they are willing to work and/or assist Edmonston in the various projects in the community.
 - (a) One of their suggestions was to examine if the community has areas that are getting more attention in the conversion of an industrial area zoning to an arts district zone.
 - (b) Mr. Baker also mentioned that with the possibility of the FBI headquarters coming to Prince George's County, there will be an influx of more residents. There is a push to make our county more livable and inviting.
- (2) Mayor Gant reported that Maryland Governor Candidate, Anthony Brown will be having a phone bank from 7-9pm, encouraging residents to vote.
- (3) Mayor Gant expressed appreciation to the council for their support during the Edmonston Day celebration.

8) Adjournment:

- a. A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30pm was made by Council Member Bee, seconded by Council Member White. Vote: 4-0, Mayor Gant in favor. Motion approved.
- b. Meeting adjourned.

Passed and approved this 20th day of January, 2015 by the Edmonston Town Council as the official minutes for the regular Town Council meeting conducted on 14 October, 2014.

Tracy Gant, Mayor

Michelle Rodriguez, Town Clerk